



John Reich Journal

Volume 17 / Issue 2

August 2006

JRCS

JOHN REICH COLLECTORS SOCIETY
P.O. Box 135 Harrison, OH 45030

The purpose of the John Reich Collectors Society (JRCS) is to encourage the study of numismatics, particularly United States gold and silver coins minted before the introduction of the Seated Liberty design, and to provide technical and educational information concerning such coins.

Annual dues \$20.00
Life Membership \$500.00

For general membership information or letters to the Editor or articles for publication, please write to the Editor:

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All other correspondence should be directed to:

Office of the President, David J. Davis
P.O. Box 400, Manchester, MI 48158

The John Reich Journal is the official publication of the Society and is distributed to all members in good standing. Members are encouraged to submit any articles encouraging the study of numismatics and / or relating to early United States gold and silver coins to the editors. Especially needed are articles containing new information about die marriages, die states of published die marriages, attribution methods, collections, collectors, etc.

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Cover Photos: 1822 0105 Double Struck Obverse. Major errors on our Federal Coinage are both rare and interesting. Much can be learned about the minting process from the study of errors. You can learn more about Bust Half errors by reviewing Ken Hill's article Double Struck Bust Halves from Whole Number 36, December 1998 of the JRJ.

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Official publication of the

John Reich Collectors Society

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Editor's Comments

Most of those who are reading this are coin collectors, some are numismatists, and fewer still are numismatic researchers. This latter, smallest group are those that keep the hobby interesting for the rest of us. Many of the articles in this journal are written by members of the small fraternity of numismatic researchers. We attempt to encourage researchers to submit their research to us for publication in the JR Journal by dangling the possibility of winning the *Jules Reiver Literary Award* by the vote of our membership. It is my hope that we can encourage a new generation of numismatic researchers to take up the mantle left by the generation before them.

It is harder for today's researchers to assemble reference collections complete with numerous duplicates for comparison. It, therefore, falls to the collecting community as a whole to make their collections available for those interested in doing research as their "reference collections". Will you, the membership, be willing to do your part to make your pride and joy collections available for research? Can we count on you to help? You can begin to do your part by participating in the census included in each issue of the journal. You can also make your collection available by letting researchers know of your interest when you learn of their needs. As a community united we may yet expand on the works left to us by the past generations of numismatic researchers.

The ANA is fast approaching and the JRCS will have their annual meeting at the Denver show. We will assemble at 8AM in room 712 of the convention center on Wednesday August 16. There will be a short business meeting followed by an educational presentation. We look forward to seeing many of you there. Mark your calendars and make plans on attending.

The Bust Quarter Census will be presented in the next issue of the journal. Everyone with even one bust quarter is encouraged to send a listing of their holdings, including duplicates, to Bust Quarter Census, PO Box 135 Harrison, OH 45030. Dr. Glenn Peterson has again agreed to tabulate the results for the membership.

Speaking of the census, Dr. Charles Horning has, again, done a magnificent job with the Bust Dime Census presented in this issue. His survey has reported on an incredible 2732 specimens! Thanks to the dime collectors of JRCS for their enthusiastic response.

We would again like to thank, and congratulate, Bill Luebke on hosting an online news forum for the JRCS. Members who are not currently receiving the now weekly e-news letter can subscribe by sending a note to JRNews@nyc.rr.com. I would personally like to persuade everyone with a computer to become a member. It is a great way to keep up with the latest bustie news between issues of the JRJ.

I would also like to encourage everyone to begin some type of research that you will be able to someday submit to the JR Journal for publication. Don't be intimidated by being published. Many of the most popular articles for our journal have been personal experiences shared by the membership. Do you have an interesting collecting story to tell? Maybe you have a question that you would like answered by one of our members. Put pen to paper and send something for publication.



Plaudits, Pans and Perplexing Points

The John Reich Collectors Society Board of Directors would like to recognize member Stephen J. Herrman for his continued donations to our club.

For those members who are not aware, Steve donates \$2.50 to JRCS for every copy he sells of his **Auction & Mail Bid Prices Realized for Bust Half Dollars 1794-1839 (AMBPR)**. Steve sent a Check to JRCS in April 2006 for \$307.50 for the Autumn 2005 issue.



AMBPR covers prices realized at auction, mail bid and verified fixed price list sales for Rarity 3+ to Rarity 8 Die Varieties, Overdates & Popular Varieties, Proofs, Mint Errors & Patterns, Countermarks and Contemporary Counterfeits. I have a copy of the new Spring 2006 issue in front of me as I write (Yes, despite my love for the early silver dollars, I have been known to buy a few Capped Bust Half Dollars here and there...). The latest issue includes the most current rarity ratings estimates released by the Bust Half Nut Club (BHNC). Per Herrman over 10,000 auction records are included in the latest revision.

[The AMBPR is published semi-annually at the end of March and end of September. To acquire your copy please contact Steve Herrman at Herrman102@aol.com or call him at 303-989-6393).]

We thank Steve for his generosity and contributions to our organization and to the hobby.

By W. David Perkins, Treasurer



An Unconsummated Marriage?

There have been a good number of bust half dollars described as being in proof condition. This has occurred in the sale catalogs of prestigious auction houses and by well-known numismatic experts. Contrarily, it has also been asserted that only the “crushed lettered edge” coins of 1833, 1834 and 1835 are true proofs.

On current evidence, all of the CLE strikes were made in 1836 using the reverse die of the Overton 106 marriage. This die is characterized as having a raised, beaded rim that seems to imply that it was originally designed to strike proof coins. The obverse die in that marriage has an ordinary rim that suggests to me that it was not the originally intended partner. There is an 1836 obverse die with the appropriate raised, beaded rim, and that die is used in the Overton 108 marriage. Could it be that this latter die was the true intended partner for the former?

In the Leaman and Gunnet emission sequence O.108 immediately precedes O.106, and that is then followed by O.107. Of additional interest is the fact that OBV.5 is first paired with REV.F to create O.108, and OBV.4 is paired with REV.E to make O.106. These two marriages are then followed by O.107 where OBV.4 and REV.F are finally joined, as perhaps they should have been in the first place. If a CLE half dollar dated 1836 emerges, it would not be a great surprise to me if it were struck from these two dies, although that would be the first time that an obverse die used for a CLE was also used for a business strike.

Alan S. DeShazo

**Bust Quarter Census is next.
Please send your inventory listings including
duplicates to:**

**Bust Quarter Census c/o JRCS
Po Box 135 Harrison, OH 45030**



E and L Counterstamps; The Questions Continue

Bradley S. Karoleff, NLG

Questions about the E and L counterstamps found on the quarters of 1815 and 1825 have been on the minds of numismatists for decades. There have been many different possible explanations put forth by collectors and researchers since their “discovery” late in the 19th century.

The first article found in **The John Reich Journal** appeared in number 6, December, 1987 authored by Mark Hotz with a follow-up comment by Bill Subjack. This article started the most contested series of articles that have ever appeared in the pages of our Journal. Various authors have put forth a myriad of explanations for these counterstamps. The story has yet to be brought to a conclusion and it may never be fully answered.

A quick review of the existing theories will bring the newer members without access to all the back issues of the journal, up to date.

Mark Hotz noted that there were three different counterstamps known: E, L and R. Since the publication of that article, with diligent searching, no R counterstamp has ever been found. We currently believe that there are only E's and L's available. Hotz also notes the lack of evidence of the counterstamping on the reverse of the host coins. He quoted Q. David Bowers' description from his Long Beach sale of February 1977, where Bowers theorizes that the letters stood for the weights of the coins. Bowers thought that the E was for excess weight, L for light weight and the R for regular weight. As we all know now, there is no R, and from further research, we know all the coins weigh the same, as was noted in the description. Bowers further wrote that the letters may have stood for the distribution areas or for the origin of the silver used to mint them- much like the CAL on the 1848 quarter eagle.

Hotz dismissed the weight theory in his article and mentioned some “certainties”. He thought they were officially added at the Mint while still residing in the dies. He theorized that the counterstamps were applied to early strike coins and limited to perhaps 500-1000 pieces. This author's thoughts as to the quantities counterstamped are much less than this “original” theory.

Hotz surmised that the letters may have been used to identify press setup. The L stood for left, E for even and the R for right. Again, without the existence of an R, this theory does not “hold water”. He also discusses Breen’s old theory of their use as an award, E for English and L for Latin. Hotz dismissed this idea, as he thought there was no way to add the Counterstamps outside the Mint with such precision and lack of disturbance to the reverse.

In his 1987 note that immediately follows the Hotz article, Bill Subjack theorizes that the counterstamps were made at the same time, possibly in the year of 1825. He mentions that only one E and one L punch was used to counterstamp both of the dates. He also mentions the fact that most of the counterstamped quarters are found in XF or better condition, whereas the “regular” quarters are usually found in “wretched conditions”. He continues to speculate that the letters may stand for some minting technique. He refers to the “closed collar die introduced in 1825 for the dime”. As we all know from Russ Logan’s research of Bill Subjack’s observations on reeded edge abnormalities found on Capped Bust Dimes, a collar was used to strike all these types of dimes. (See **John Reich Journal**, whole number 41, pages 11-15). Expanding his theory, Subjack believed the E could stand for “edge collar reeding” and the L for “lathe” reeding. I feel that this is incorrect, as the edge reeding on all the counterstamped quarters, at present, seems to be identical regardless of date or counterstamp.

In the next issue of the Journal, Hugh Cooper weighs in with the following observations. In his article, Cooper adds yet another letter to the controversy, an M! He thought that some of the workers at the Mint may have marked the quarters with letters representing their hometowns. His thought was that the 1815’s were struck in 1825 from dies remaining at the Mint.

Noted Bust Half Dollar researcher Stew Witham submitted a letter to the editor in the next issue saying he thought the coins were counterstamped at a bench “possibly at the Mint, but not necessarily so”. I personally think that Stew had a great idea here. Past researchers have always had a problem with the “in the die” theory of counterstamping. They were unsure of how the counterstamp would have fit between the dies. My belief is that the die was removed from the press and taken to the bench, where it was inserted into the “jig” that held dies as they were being produced. The coins were then placed onto the die’s surface and settled into the recesses of the reverse. The letter punch was then placed into the slot or guide on the jig that was used to hold the letter, number or star punches that were used to produce the dies. This would account for the exact placement of the E and L Counterstamps. The only differences seen in the placement of the letters is in the North/South relationships. The E and L punches may have been slightly smaller in the neck areas that allowed for

the minor differences in these positions. I, obviously, am of the “in the die” camp for the manufacture of these interesting pieces of American numismatic history.

Hotz wades back into the waters in number 13 of the Journal with “Those Darned Counterstamped Bust Quarters- The Saga Continues”. He mentions a correspondence with David Bowers where Bowers mentions the possibility that the L could have something to do with Lafayette’s visit to the US in 1825. But what about the E? Hotz’s correspondence with R. W. Julian revealed the following ideas. Julian discounted the addition of the letters at the Mint as being pointless. He (Julian) had done extensive research at the archives in Washington, D. C. and had never seen any official notes on the counterstamps. He also states that there was no way that there would have been 1815 quarters stockpiled at the Mint, as all the coins made at that time were for individual depositors and would have had to have been paid out immediately. He also did not believe the counterstamps were added while the coins were still in the dies.

In issue 16, Larry Blackwelder, noted quarter collector and researcher added his thoughts. Larry was one of the most knowledgeable researchers of the bust quarters of this time and his input was very well received. He listed items under FACT or CONJECTURE.

First the FACTS according to Larry: Only the letters E and L were used. They appear on only one die marriage of each year- 1815 and 1825. The counterstamps appear on high grade coins. The E is always located over the cap and the L is always in the field to the left of the cap. These locations were very precise.

The following were listed as CONJECTURES: The other letters mentioned by the authors of M and R, or additional letters, have not turned up and must therefore be dismissed. He could not conclusively concur that the punches were the same for both years as he had not examined numerous coins of each countermark. Author’s note: it has since been determined that the letter punches are the same. The location of the counterstamping and whether it was done in the dies remained an opinion. The exact manufacture date as compared to the date appearing on the coins may not coincide. In addition, the die state of the 1815 quarters with the Counterstamps is early, thus eliminating the theory that they were made in the 1820’s, or later from the original dies. Early die state 1815’s could have been saved until 1825, but for what reason?

Larry thought that the information about Lafayette’s visit may hold some promise but he concluded that there was no discernable pattern that would lead to any conclusion.

Mark Hotz again entered the fray in volume 17 with “Damn Those Counterstamped Bust Quarters (Part III in the Continuing Saga). Here he discounts his own theory of the press setup due to the lack of any R counterstamps coming to light in spite of the amount of attention the subject had received. He had been an advocate of the “in the die” theory, but now was unsure of where and how the coins were counterstamped. He believed that the letters were added to the host coins in OR AFTER (emphasis added) 1825 by the same person(s). He believed the coins were obviously saved for some unknown reason.

As a side note that will have some relevance later, two articles on the Economites and their settlement at Harmony, PA was submitted by Chuck Erb and John Kovach. The articles were primarily concerned with the large quantity of bust half dollars hoarded by the Society for their bullion value.

The next time the E and L's were mentioned in the Journal was in issue 34, where Russ Logan included them as a separate line listing in the quarter census. Members reported their limited holdings of 3 1815 E's and 4 L's and 1 each of the 1825 E and L.

The latest in the E and L controversy appeared in the 47th issue of our Journal. Ted McAuley wrote a lengthy, well researched article, offering his insight into the counterstamped quarter production. His theory centered on the aforementioned settlement at Economy PA. McAuley states in part I of his article “...for any new hypothesis must adequately incorporate established facts and **weave them into the story that is told by the coins**”. (Bold type added by this author). He lists the established facts as we know them about the quarters. One interesting fact he puts forward that no other researcher had previously published in our Journal was that the first auction appearance of a counterstamped quarter (1815 L) was in the George Massamore sale of August 31, 1881, lot 849.

McAuley's review of the known facts concerning the countermarked quarters in part I of his article appearing in whole number 47, July, 2004 of **The John Reich Journal** is required reading for anyone interested in these anomalies. His historical research is unequaled by any other writer on the subject. It is part II of his article where he proposes his “answer” to the reason and use of these quarters that is controversial.

McAuley begins his final part of the article with a famous quote from **The Coin Collectors Journal** about the then recently discovered Economy Hoard of silver coins. In the article, it was stated that “When the silver was brought to light it was black or tarnished from oxidation, and our correspondent says, ‘sore fingers were plenty in Economy’ from cleaning the coins, as all were scrubbed before sold or circulated”. This interesting, first-hand account of the hoard from 1881 indicates that the E and L counterstamped quarters should

all display concentrated hairlines from that scrubbing at their discovery. My personal experience is that these coins are, more often than not, found with beautiful toning without major hairlining. This would lead me to believe that they were not part of the Economy Hoard purchased by Haseltine.

McAuley's history of the Economites and their Society is a beautifully researched and written account of their existence. I would highly recommend anyone interested in our early coinage to spend the time to read his article. It is some of the best verbiage ever written for our Journal. As you suspect by now, my opinion of the origin of the E and L quarters differs from McAuley's. More later....

McAuley finally concludes that the quarters were made as voting tokens for members of the Society. His theory is that the E was for "Economy" and the L for "Leonite" or "Leon" for the members of the Society that seceded from the colony. The dates of the quarters stood for the seniority of the members involved in the voting, the 1815 quarters for the oldest members and the 1825's for the members with less seniority. But how much seniority was needed to qualify for the 1815's and a more "weighted vote" as speculated by McAuley? He continues to qualify his hypothesis with a 2/1 relationship of votes for the Economites to the Leonites (secessionists) as represented by a population of 16 E's vs. 9 L's in the NGC population report. Why counterstamp the quarters and not just use different dated coins for the vote? Ted readily admitted that the E and L counterstamps looked very similar at a glance, why not use an easier method to identify the vote? He continues to state that "...300-750 would have been needed to record the vote (depending on who was considered 'enfranchised' at the time of the Great Schism vote)". If more than 300 coins were needed, and nearly all the extant specimens are of high grade, where are the rest of the coins?

John Kovach, another Economy researcher, quarter collector, and *Jules Reiver Literary Award* winner for his article on Economy, PA, questions McAuley's theory on the quarters. He contends that their religious upbringing would not have given them the need to "cast lots" in the voting with the need for "counters". The schism of the organization was divided along the lines of seniority within the organization. The older members had a more valuable stake in the community due to their longer involvement than the newer converts. These newer members wanted a larger equity share not based on the number of years membership in the colony. There would have been no secret as to which side each member supported and, thusly, no need for the voting counters.

I am routinely amazed at the information one finds when doing research for other projects. Recently, I came across a passage in **Dies and Coinage** by Don Taxay while looking for other information that I think MAY be relevant to our E and L conundrum. On pages

191-192 of the Taxay book, there is mention of some of the scandals of restriking coins in the second Philadelphia Mint. We are all familiar with the famous 1804 dollars and the numerous pattern issues that were produced during this time period for trade and sale. One of the principals in these schemes was Theodore Eckfeldt, son of the engraving room foreman George and nephew of the assayer Jacob and grandson of Adam Eckfeldt, the second chief coiner of the Mint. Theodore, being a member of "The Mint's first family", most likely, had access and privileges not afforded the average Mint employee. Historical accounts have him selling rolls of patterns to numerous dealers in rare coins in the Eastern United States.

Another character attached to the Mint in this era was Henry Linderman. He became director of the Mint in 1867 and proceeded to use his position of influence to strike more patterns and "reissue" some 1804 dollars, mostly for personal profit. Finally in 1868 "after carefully restriking a number of impressions from each of the old dies, Linderman magnanimously allowed the lot to be destroyed" (Taxay, **Dies and Coinage** page 192). Linderman's activity to advance his personal collection did not go unnoticed. In 1888, at the sale of his collection, many pieces were confiscated by Treasury agents!

Here we have two Mint employees that were involved with fraud in conjunction with their official duties. They were both directly involved in both the manufacture and sale of illegal coins and patterns. History has proven that they were both guilty of criminal acts while in the employ of the Mint. Could they have been involved together for any of these "midnight minting schemes"? If so, they may have possibly needed some way to keep track of what was owed from the sale of these illegal coins. They also could not have risked the possibility that a written record would have been discovered. An alternative method of accounting may have been needed to keep track of the inventory and sales. Could the E's have stood for Eckfeldt and the L's for Linderman in some elaborate accounting scheme for these two thieves?

Again, using Ted McAuley's words: "...for any new hypothesis must adequately incorporate established facts and weave them into the story that is told by the coins". I believe I have woven a new story around the facts presented by the coins that is as reliable as any that has been put forth by numismatists over the last century.

McAuley concludes the second part of his series with "This report remains only a working hypothesis, given that irrefutable documentary evidence of the countermarking of quartersremain undiscovered". I too lack this evidence, but hope that with diligent searching, or a lot of dumb luck, someone will eventually come across the "smoking gun" and enlighten us as to the factual origins of these enigmas.



How to Build a Variety Collection on a Budget

Bill Luebke

Collecting early U.S. coins by die variety is both fun and challenging. Watching your collection grow and evolve over the years is much like watching a child grow and evolve. Your collection will even develop a personality much as a child does. But how to get started and how to do it?

Most of us have limited budgets for our collections. Unreasonable landlords and mortgage lenders expect a payment every month. They just don't seem to understand that you need that money to feed your coin habit. Here are some guidelines that will hopefully help you build a collection on limited funds.

While I am primarily a collector of bust dollars by die variety, these guidelines easily apply to collectors of any series.

Select a Series

Most JRCS members firmly believe most if not all U.S. coins of the 1794-1839 period are "cool." But if you are on budget, you must select just one series to concentrate on. Limited cash does not allow you to spread your cash too thinly. Thus you must select just one series to concentrate on.

Determine which series interests you. Which designs and denominations intrigue you? You can select an entire series, like half dimes 1794-1837, or just a portion of a series, like half dimes 1829-1837. Choosing the latter portion of a series will save you considerable money as the early dates are generally much more expensive than the latter. There are also the early dimes, quarters, halves and dollars. Early gold is out of the question if you are on a budget.

I opted for bust dollars for several reasons. They are the large, United States' answer to European silver crowns. Because they are large they are easier for me to see, even in photographs, and they are thus easier for me to attribute. I have always loved them, purchasing my first at age 13 or so. I love early copper as well, but there are far too many collectors (and dollars) chasing the better varieties in those series. Not good for a person on a budget. So I chose bust dollars, which at the time I started my variety collection were in my opinion undervalued. While the large price increases for early dollars in recent years may represent a high cost of entry for some collectors, this is counterbalanced by rare varieties now bringing much lower premiums than they did years ago. Varieties that once sold for 4-5X common value now often sell for only 1.5-2X common value. It is a very under-collected series now, with many of the great names out of the game.

But your budget may not be large enough for bust dollars, due to the relatively high cost of the underlying type coin, or bust halves, which currently have a large following (again, too many collectors and dollars chasing the rare ones). A tightly budgeted collector should consider a series that is a bit under-collected and that offers a good number of relatively inexpensive coins.

It may be prudent to select a series in which few of the coins are sold already attributed. This is another reason I chose bust dollars. Even today, the vast majority of bust dollars are sold un-attributed. This gives the budget collector opportunity to “cherry pick” better varieties at minimal cost. I have cherry picked a number of R-6 and R-7 varieties over the years.

Do the Homework

Once you have selected a series the real work begins. You must familiarize yourself with that series. You must obtain the most recent, thorough and accurate books describing the varieties of that series. Read them thoroughly. There is often a wealth of information beyond the attribution descriptions.

Research auction results. Most of the major auction companies maintain archives sections on their websites where you can view prior auctions of your series, complete with excellent photographs and prices realized. This will give you a feel for which varieties rarely appear and which frequently appear. You will find that some varieties that are generally believed to be rare or at least scarce may not be. In a few cases, you will find “common” varieties that appear far more infrequently than their rarity ratings suggest. This will take time, but over months and years you will get a feel for which varieties are over-rated and which you should jump on when they appear.

Surf the Internet. There are many coins of your series on the web. eBay and other online auctions list thousands of coins every day. Many retail dealers have websites with photographs and useful information. Beware of sales hype though. Many sellers tout their coins as rare when they are in fact common. You are on a budget so you do not want to overpay.

Learn How to Attribute Die Varieties

I have seen many collectors give up on collecting early coins by die variety out of frustration with their inability to attribute. Most of the recent books offer well detailed descriptions of die variety characteristics and reasonably clear photographs. But there are many varieties that are very similar to each other, often sharing an obverse die or a reverse die.

The descriptions in the books are often hard to follow. Is that star pointing between the dentils or at the lower edge? In some years, all the varieties look very much alike (I still have trouble attributing the dollars of 1800). But you can use other distinguishing features

not mentioned in the books. For example, take a look at the 1798 B-18, BB-103 dollar, an extremely rare one. It shares an easily attributable obverse die (there's a bold dot above the date) with two other reverses (B-20, BB-102 and B-21, BB-107, both of which are far more common). So how do you quickly determine if it's the extremely rare B-18? Look at the lower right three stars on the reverse. If the middle star is above the plane of the other two, you've scored!

Study the photos in the books and auction catalogues. Soon you will find markers that mean something to you. You do not have to be enslaved by the descriptions in the books.

Make a PUP List

Now that you know how to attribute, make a Pick-Up Points List. List those identifiers that mean something to you for rare varieties and those you are seeking. This is invaluable at coin shows and when surfing the web. Time is often of the essence and you don't want to have to clumsily flip through large reference books, especially when you're contemplating a "Buy-it-Now" listing. Someone may beat you to it.

Be Selective

Avoid buying very common varieties and off-quality coins just because they're cheap. Try to buy good quality coins and try for better varieties. It's easy to quickly fill a lot of holes with common, low-grade specimens. Try for the nicer quality coins that are within your budget. It's fine to buy lower grade coins as long as they are "nice" for the grade. You can always upgrade later and lower grade coins that have eye appeal can always be sold for good prices as you upgrade. Don't bury your money in "dogs."

Avoid cleaned, repaired or otherwise "problem" coins. Select those with nice surfaces and color. Eye appeal is all important. As your collection improves, your taste likely will as well. You will not enjoy ugly coins you bought just to fill holes, and you will likely lose big time when it's time to sell. There are many problem coins at coin shows and on the Internet. You may want to select only coins certified by a major grading company until you are comfortable with your ability to avoid the pitfalls of raw coins. This is especially true of raw coins on the Internet, which can be full of nasty surprises when they arrive in the mail.

In today's market many scarce bust dollars (say R-4 and R-5) can be had for little or no premium over common. Plus, you now have your PUP List to help you cherry pick unattributed tough varieties. R-1 to R-3 varieties can be had at any time. Avoid the trap of loading up on common ones.

Be Patient

Don't jump in with both feet, spending your budget quickly just to fill holes. If there's a variety you want, resist buying the first one you see unless it's really the coin for you or a great once-in-a-lifetime rarity. Another will likely appear that is better for you and possibly cheaper.

Network

Let dealers and other collectors know of your interests. Other collectors of your series can be very helpful and may well help you locate varieties you seek. They may pass on their duplicates to you as well. Plus you will gain a lot of information that's not in the books. Variety collecting is a constant learning process and it's more fun when shared with others. Material published in books often becomes stale. Discussions with other collectors will give you insight as to changing rarity ratings and prices.

Find out which dealers often stock coins in your series. Build working relationships with those you find honest and dependable. Avoid those who over-hype and over-price. Especially avoid those who try to stick you with "dogs." You may want to file a Want List with a few dealers you trust.

Keep Hunting

Diligently surf the web, review auction catalogues and visit dealer web sites. The Internet has greatly advanced variety collecting. You can now view thousands of coins each day. Digital photography has made it easy to post high-quality photos of coins on the web. Even now, most coins are offered without attribution. Today you can call up a photo and attribute it yourself. That certainly wasn't possible just a few years ago when we were still slaves to the U.S. mail and a dealer's best guess.

Attend coin shows at every opportunity. Meet with dealers and see which carry coins of your series and to your liking. Major dealers usually appear at the larger national and regional shows, but even smaller dealers at local shows can be of help. Practice your attributing skills. Make sure to bring your PUP List – you may score a good one.

Manage Your Money

It's easy to get caught up in the excitement of filling holes in your collection. Try to be conservative. Try to make the best deals possible. Prices are often negotiable. Avoid "auction fever." If a coin passes your opinion of a fair price let it go, especially if it's a variety that appears with some regularity. Try to keep some money in reserve so you don't have to pass on a great coin or a great value for lack of funds. Look for targets of opportunity, under-priced coins or rare varieties.

Many financial experts will tell you to avoid easy credit, warn you of its evil pitfalls. Nonsense! I recommend you have available large lines of credit at all times. Low-interest credit card checks have been a total bonanza for me. Even when I'm broke, I can still buy an expensive coin when it's a bargain or a rare opportunity. Of course I have to make sure I can pay it off before the big interest hits.

Don't let your money get tied up in duplicates and other unnecessary coins. You need it to advance your collection and to pay off any credit you used. If you have dogs you don't like get rid of them, even at a loss if need be. Admit your mistake, unload them and move on.

Use Your Knowledge

As both your collection and knowledge advance use them to your advantage. When you locate under-priced coins or rare varieties, buy them, even if they are not needed for your collection. You can always sell them for a profit or trade them for coins you need. Cherry picking is a time-honored method of increasing collectors' funds and improving their collections. You have invested much time and considerable expense in furthering your numismatic skills. Let them pay off!

When to Upgrade

Because you are striving to complete (or nearly complete) your variety set, you don't want to get involved with much upgrading early on. It can be expensive and you are on a budget. If you've taken my advice of selecting quality coins for the grade it's OK to have a Good or Very Good filling a hole. Upgrading depends a lot on your finances. If you are still seeking a number of varieties you may not have the funds available to upgrade. You'd rather use the funds to buy needed varieties. As your collection advances, you may want to start upgrading. When you do so, be even more selective than you have been. It's pretty pointless to upgrade a nice Very Good with a so-so Fine. My collection is mature enough now that I do upgrade periodically. When I do so, I try to upgrade those coins I don't particularly like, including coins certified by lower-tier grading services and coins that have a "problem" or are unattractive. When I do upgrade, I try to go for a much better coin. I upgrade by at least one grade level (e.g. from Fine to Very Fine) and preferably at least two grade levels (e.g. from Fine to Extremely Fine). This isn't always possible, but the object is to *improve* your collection.

What to Do When You Complete Your Collection

Frankly, I don't know. I doubt that will happen for me. I lack nine of the 118 known varieties of bust dollars. All are extremely rare or unique or hideously expensive. I'll have to leave this section for another day.



A Triple Play

Nathan Markowitz

Variety collecting reminds me of watching baseball. The newcomer learns the basics and then methodically adds to the routines. Once in a blue moon something truly exciting happens. This is my story.

I found myself attending a nearby coin show after years away from collecting. I happened upon a few large cents and noted a prominent cud...so prominent the opposite side of the coin was nearly gone. I purchased the coin for the princely ransom of thirty five dollars and dragged it home. With no worthwhile references in my vacant numismatic library I began to buy books. I had found a scarce die state. Excited by my find.... I bought more books; joined EAC and JRCS. Through excellent counsel of a few dealers and the gracious enthusiasm and knowledge shared from fellow collectors I somehow became a variety collector and settled primarily on early quarters. As a variety collector I oft feel akin to the anteater, sifting through piles of dirt to pinpoint the tiny succulent reward of an interesting variety or die state. Admit it folks, you indeed are similarly afflicted.

A natural interest in the draped bust design and its temporal association with western exploration led me searching the minutiae of the the draped quarters. I stumbled across an 1806 Browning 6. Just a perfect g/vg but a fortunate find nonetheless. I was told in no uncertain terms I would likely not find another of the difficult varieties. A fellow quarter collector was shocked when I called him from the Portland ANA. Located in the back of the show a midwest dealer had a nice good 1806 Browning 7, correctly attributed! I had added another tough variety.

We are all attracted to variety collecting by a variety (pun intended) of passions. Some wish completeness. Some want the finest. Some simply to hold history in their hands. And weirdos doing die states. Sadly I share most of these compulsions as I fear do my fellow readers. I think we all dream of finding the tough varieties or even a new die state or die variety. We all enjoy the chase of

discovery and the truly exciting moment we hope will come one day. My day was in December. I approached a dealer and looked at a nice 1818 quarter. I asked if he had any other quarters, especially draped bust type. He stated apologetically he only had low grade ones and graciously brought two early type boxes for my inspection. I now could gleefully examine unattributed half dimes, dimes and early halves methodically and miss any rare varieties since I had no good experience in these series and the books were home. So I instead methodically flipped through all three draped bust quarters. The first was 1806 labeled ag/vg and obviously in a flip a long time. It was the rarer obverse and rather heavily worn. I flipped to the back side expecting another Browning 6 or perhaps a Browning 10. The reverse was nicely struck and a problem free Browning 8!!! I regained my composure somehow and inspected the other quarters closely...all commoners. We had a great time talking over collecting in general and took a few stabs at slabomania in the shop before I pocketed my coins and headed home. This time I did not miss the triple play. I hope one of my quarter colleagues has an encore...perhaps a new variety of 1806. Browning 11 anyone?



1806 B-6 obv



1806 B-6 rev



1806 B-8 obv



1806 B-8 rev



Bust Dime Census

By Charles D. Horning, DDS

Even though more than 3 years have passed since our last Bust Dime Census (JR Journal Vol. 15 Issue 1), our collective interests in this series have not waned.

One may have thought that with the 2002 passing of our mentor, Russ Logan, that our focus may have drifted. However, nothing could be further from the truth. Russ laid a strong foundation providing continued research and passion within our collecting fraternity.

Several items point to our fervent interest: 1) over 2700 dimes have been reported to comprise this census. 22 collectors provided information on their collections. 2) 4 collections in the Capped Bust Dime series are complete and 3 others lack only 1 die marriage. 3) As we will discuss later, prices have moved up sharply for the rare and unusual both in auction prices and in private transactions.

As a continuing testament to the research accomplished by the authors Early United States Dimes (EUSD) in 1984, no new dimes have been discovered in either Bust Dime series since our last census.

In January of this year, Heritage Galleries auctioned the famed Jules Reiver collection. Jules was nearly complete in every Bust series.

There were a few notable exceptions: (several draped Bust dimes: i.e., 1796 JR-7 and 1802 JR-1, 1803 JR-5, 1805 JR-1). In capped Bust Dimes, only the very elusive 1827 JR-10 (proof only?) was not part of his collection.

Jules loved die states and collected virtually every one that interested him. Grade, condition or damage did not prevent him from purchasing a coin. For example, the rare 1821 JR-2 dime was represented twice – lot 22168 listed as XF details with 2 large scratches on the obverse (sold for \$2990 with buyer's premium) and lot 22169 listed as a F-12 with no problems sold for \$6325 including buyer's premium).

The above examples point to several items of interest for today's collectors. Obviously, condition (marks, surfaces and originality) matters. The truly rare dimes remain so (see accompanying chart) and now command solid premiums. Problem coins no matter how rare, are market discounted.

As an overview of the current market, this author does have a few observations. The supply of original coins is drying up. As one would suspect in a “hot” market, both price and grade inflation are commonplace. Try to find an original XF or AU with pleasing surfaces and reasonable eye appeal priced less than the next highest grade or more.

Even though the grading services claim to be watchful of surface enhancement, mistakes do happen. One certainly must be a careful buyer at the highest grades. Perhaps it doesn’t matter so much when a nice original AU is priced well over 60 money!!

As the services become more vigilant, the coin doctors always appear to be one step ahead. Coin “conservation”, that all encompassing mayonnaise of numismatics, has been used as a tent to cover any number of techniques to bring the concept of changing a coin’s surface into the realm of acceptability. It has been reported that these enhancements may not be permanent – even lowly dimes at the high end of the grading scale are vulnerable.

The Draped Bust series, though certainly not dormant, is relatively unchanged in member participation. Member #359, a collector of extraordinary knowledge and patience, dominates the census.

So, what can we learn from Capped Bust census. Several die marriages (certainly the later dated ones), have seen an increase in the average grade and in the highest grade reported. LM32 has been especially aggressive – our congratulations to him.

Allen Lovejoy, with virtually unlimited funds, reported an average grade of 57 (by 1990 standards). LM32 reports an average grade of 51 – Wow!

Rare is still rare – but perhaps not quite as rare. Most notably, we now report no R-7 die marriages. All die marriages have at least 13 known examples. This author, with the assistance of four JRCS members who are experts in this series, has determined the number of examples of the 5 rarest dimes known to us (see table). We hope this will be a valuable guide for future research

These members, Kirk Gorman, David Quint, Lou Scuderi and Mike Sherrill have provided wonderful insight. Our organization is measurably richer for their willingness to share years of documentation with us.

The criteria established for rarity within our table are as follows:

R-7	less than 13 known
R-6+	13-17 known
R-6	18-24 known
R-6-	25-30 known

The elusive 1820 JR-12 remains an R-6. Our researchers have documented 21 pieces, though only 13 are listed in the census. Jules Reiver's example, an NGC AU-50, realized \$6325 including buyer's premium.

Plenty of attention was given the 1821 JR-2 since the Reiver collection sale. It is now listed as a 6+, a slight down grade from R-7, it's listing in the previous census. Our researchers have now identified 16 examples. This should come as no surprise, since every junk box at every major show has been searched by now - but you never know....

The 1827 JR-10 has also received considerable attention recently with the June 2006 auction by Heritage Galleries. This example was listed as an NGC MS-65 but modified in the description by Heritage as a probable Proof 65. However it only sold for \$21,850, leading one to think that this coin may have had a few problems. Much discussion related to its true rarity preceded the auction on our related email discussion board at JRNews@NYC.rr.com. Based on this information and subsequent group discussions, the 1827 JR-10 is now listed as an R-6+.

The most recognizable bust dime variety, the 1829 JR-10 (curled base 2) has not appreciably changed in average grade (8). Though PCGS lists an AU in its census, no one to our knowledge, has seen it. Of course, PCGS offers no further information; therefore, it remains a numismatic mystery. We now are aware of at least 23 examples of this die marriage. Due to its popularity and recognizability, it is highly likely that several pieces reside in collections unrelated to JRCS. There was considerable debate within our discussion group as to the true rarity of the curled base 2. Several members believe there are 30+ examples extant. All have reported a few seen but not documented. It is therefore, this author's feeling that there is anecdotal evidence suggesting a need to lower the rarity rating. I am at this time taking the middle ground (R-6-). Like aliens, even though there is no hard evidence yet – I know they're out there!

The 1833 JR-3, though often found in high grade, lists only 12 (vs. 11 in the old census) examples in the member's census. However, our researchers have uncovered 20 examples. The reported average grade is a 32. Based on our current knowledge, this rare dime maintains it's rarity as an R-6. The example sold in the Reiver sale (Lot 22253) with a Lovejoy provenance, was listed as AU details but improperly cleaned. It sold for \$4887.50 (including buyer's premium).

Mike Sherrill reported to this author that, based on a conversation with Russ Logan several years ago, there is a long-held discrepancy in the description of the Lovejoy-Reiver specimen that needs to be clarified. It appears that the Stack's description (Lovejoy sale 10/16/1990) was in error. Stack's described the dime as very choice BU (NGC 64) and sold for \$2800 hammer price. The coin was earlier represented in EUSD as the book's plate coin and listed as finest seen, an AU 50 from Milford Stamp and Coin, purchased in 1947. This is the dime that resurfaced in the Reiver sale, complete with the Lovejoy envelope with the Milford provenance.

In addition to the above-mentioned rarities, a few other die marriages have undergone rarity revisions:

1820	JR-13	R-3	(Previously R-2)
1821	JR-10	R-4+	(Previously R-3)
1825	JR-3	R-4	(Previously R-3)
1827	JR-9	R-4+	(Previously R-5)
1829	JR-1	R-4+	(Previously R-4)

There are several other die marriages that warrant attention. Fodder for another cannon on another day.

In the table listing the census by grade, an astute collector can easily determine how relatively rare a particular dime is by grade in relation to those reported in the census. For example, if one were offered an AU 1820 JR-4 (R-5), jump on it!

Now that the most ardent collectors are nearly complete by die marriage, new challenges must surely await in order to keep their interest. Several members have reported extensive die state studies, but that may be too esoteric for some.

However, everyone can identify a large cud. As pointed out in the Reiver sale and subsequently in the Karoleff sale, mint errors are in demand. The prices realized in several cases were astonishing:

Reiver Sale (Jan. 2006):

Lot 22223: 1830 JR1 VG-10 with retained cud - \$345

Lot 22277: 1834 JR-6 VF-30 with retained cud - \$184

Lot 22281: 1835 JR-2 G-4 with cud - \$276

In a future article, we hope to expand on the listing of cuds in EUSD (pp 274-275). We will identify known full and retained cuds, with description accompanied by an estimation of rarity.

While our present efforts are as complete as possible, there are new discoveries that await us. In addition, several of our members failed to submit a census thereby diminishing our results.

This author, while diligent, has never been known for his computer wizardry. Without the dedicated assistance and creativity of my good friend Clyde Gavin, this census would not have been possible.

This census was created for the enjoyment of our membership. Study it carefully and employ it to expand your knowledge.

Please forward any accolades to me and any criticisms to our editor, Brad.

This census has been a labor of love and with great satisfaction and relief, I respectfully submit it.

Charles D. Horning, DDS



Draped Bust Dime Census

Charles D. Horning, DDS

Draped Bust Dime Census																	
Jun-06			359	LM44	622	048	LM13	238	016	999	869	878	835	323	RPD	AVG	MAX
Year	JR #	Rarity															
1792	1	5	63												1	63	63
1796	1	3	64	12											4	27	64
	2	4	63	12		8									3	28	63
	3	5	63	12			58								4	44	63
	4	4	66	8											2	37	66
	5	5	50	50											4	50	50
	6	3	65	15				4							3	28	65
	7	8	2												1	2	2
1797	1	4	62	20	4		50								4	34	62
	2	4	64	45		10		2							4	30	64
1798	1	3	64	20	10				15						4	27	64
	2	6	62	20	3	3	50								7	24	62
	3	5	65	4											2	35	65
	4	3	64	12	40	15	4	2	8						8	21	64
1800	1	4	61	45				3		40					4	37	61
	2	5	64	12		2			15	25					6	24	64
1801	1	4	63	8				4		6		8			6	18	63
	2	5	61	8	10	4			15		4				9	17	61
1802	1	8	45												1	45	45
	2	5	58	12			40		20						5	33	58
	3	5	50	15	20		45								6	33	50
	4	4	61	12	12		15	2							7	20	61
1803	1	7	45	3	4		30								6	21	45
	2	6	55	8	30		35								6	32	55
	3	4	64	20		3	55	4	15	12		3			10	22	64
	4	5	50	8	12				10						4	20	50
	5	8	20		6										3	13	20
1804	1	5	55	20		3		2							4	20	55
	2	5	50	45	2										3	32	50
1805	1	3	64	8	6	3		3		40	25	2	3	4	11	16	64
	2	2	64	45	30	2			40	20	15	3	3	20	10	24	64
1807	1	2	65	12	10	4		6			25	12			10	19	65
			359	LM44	622	048	LM13	238	016	999	869	878	835	323			
Varieties	Owned		32	28	15	11	10	10	8	6	5	5	3	2			
Average	Grade		57	18	13	5	38	3	17	24	15	6	4	12			
															32		
															KNOWN		
															DIE		
															MARRIAGES		

Capped Bust Dime Census

Charles D. Horning, DDS

Capped Bust Dime Census																							
Jun-06			Year	JR #	Rarity	LM32	001	622	263	960	LM44	323	238	578	1050	263B	1057	LM13	835	869	RPD	Avg	Max
1809	1	4	58	50	30	40	40	50	10	8	25	6	6					20		22	29	58	
1811	1	3	58	40	30	40	30	40	20	12	53	30	15			25	15	15	24	30	58		
1814	1	3	12	40	30	30	58	45	8	40	35	45	12			50		15	23	32	58		
	2	3	10	40	45	40	40	50	10	40	20	40	30	15	50			20	33	50			
	3	2	45	55	30	55	40	40	40	8	45	45	12	12	55			23	37	55			
	4	2	45	30	40	45	40	18	25	12	55	30	4			30	30	20	24	30	55		
	5	3	10	45	50	30	30	30	30	10	53	30	30			55		6	22	31	55		
1820	1	4	25	40	35	55	55	40	20	6	30	20	35	15	50	4	30	26	31	55			
	2	3	45	50	60	50	55	35	45	8	45	15	18	15	40	30	20	25	35	60			
	3	4	25	40	58	30	15	40	6	30	50	40	12	8	40		10	19	29	58			
	4	5	65	45	40	30	12	12	40	4	20	30	8	12	12		4	17	24	65			
	5	4	35	45	45	55	30	40	12	8	4	30	20	12	15	10	12	23	25	55			
	6	3	64	40	58	35	12	20	4	12	58	35	15	8	35	20	12	26	29	64			
	7	2	50	55	20	25	20	50	35	8	35	40	6	12	45	6		27	29	55			
	8	3	64	50	55	50	40	50	8	20	55	30	25	20	35	20	20	21	36	64			
	9	4	53	25	45	30	12	35	8	12	55	30	12	15	35			20	28	55			
	10	3	35	20	15	25	20	20	12	10	30	55	12	8	50	12	20	20	23	55			
	11	3	64	45	50	35	20	35	50	12	20	40	20	12	25	25	10	25	31	64			
	12	6	60	12	20	45	10	45	12	6	20		30		50			13	28	60			
	13	3	64	55	50	12	20	20	12	30	20	45	4	10		8	15	17	26	64			
1821	1	2	64	40	35	20	50	30	45	10	25	45	4	12	40	6	8	29	29	64			
	2	6+	20	25	30	20	4	25	4	6		8	12		12			12	15	30			
	3	4	60	50	30	35	25	12	12	8	25	25	30		40	12		20	28	60			
	4	2	64	55	50	40	25	45	30	25	58	20	8	15	40	12		24	35	64			
	5	3	63	40	60	35	20	50	45	20	50	20	20	10	55	12	20	26	35	63			
	6	2	45	50	20	12	58	55	6	8	58	30	4	8	40	4	12	25	27	58			
	7	2	40	45	20	15	62	20	30	30	50	45	12	15		8	20	25	29	62			
	8	2	64	55	50	30	15	20	20	12	55	30	8	10	55	4	12	24	29	64			
	9	2	12	50	20	18	25	35	15	20	30	25	3	12	25	10	15	26	21	50			
	10	4+	64	50	25	12	12	20	3	12	40	30	8		20			15	25	64			
1822	1	4	40	50	20	15	6	20	4	8	20	12				8		18	18	50			
1823	1	3	65	50	50	35	12	20	8	15	58	45	10	6	50	12	8	25	30	65			
	2	5-	25	60	45	55	58	58	8	8	30	40	35	12	50	8	6	29	33	60			
	3	2	55	50	20	35	53	40	6	8	40	30	6	12	45	4	12	30	28	55			
1824	1	3	10	45	15	50	50	53	8	4	58	30	30	10		4	10	48	27	58			
	2	5	35	20	8	10	3	8	8	4	18	30	3		25			17	14	35			
1825	1	4	65	50	55	25	30	50	10	8	58	58	20	15	58	8		21	36	65			
	2	2	60	40	35	55	35	20	10	30	55	30	4	12	50	8	12	26	30	60			
	3	4	25	45	40	30	25	30	15	15	50	12	15	10	50	25		21	28	50			
	4	2	62	40	30	35	55	40	3	8	50	40	12	12	45	12		24	32	62			
	5	5	64	45	35	58	3	20	30	4	50	20	35	8		40		25	32	64			

Year	JR #	Rarity	LM32	001	622	263	960	LM44	323	238	578	1050	263B	1057	LM13	835	869	RPD	Avg	Max
1827	1	3	12	60	30	50	35	40	6	55	12	30	15	10		6		21	28	60
	2	5	12	30	30	30	8	3	15	4	20	8	6					19	15	30
	3	1	45	45	20	25	55	8	60	12	58	20	4	12		8	30	25	29	60
	4	2	55	45	45	12	30	12	30	12	53	35	8	12	40	20	15	21	28	55
	5	3	66	35	30	45	8	50	10	8	40	40	40	10	40			21	32	66
	6	2	64	45	20	50	45	6	40	12	53	40	10	12	55		3	20	33	64
	7	3	63	50	30	40	45	45	30	10	55	30	12	20		5	8	22	32	63
	8	4	25	45	58	30	40	30	30	4	63	20	10	12	55	10		23	31	63
	9	4+	58	30	40	35	30	40	15	6	58	50	20	8	55	20		27	33	58
	10	6+	8	40	30	6	10										5	19	40	
	11	2	25	50	40	30	35	40	20	10	62	20	12	15		5	6	21	26	62
	12	1	25	45	45	12	55	30	6	12	62	40	8	15		30	8	20	28	62
	13	3	65	45	40	25	30	50	25	10	45	20	12	20	30	12	3	23	29	65
1828	1	2	40	60	45	35	55	35	40	12	58	25	15	10	45	25	20	34	35	60
	2	3	63	50	40	35	55	50	3	15	55	30	15		53	3	20	38	35	63
1829	1	4+	64	45	55	55	62	63	4	3		30	12	12		35		18	37	64
	2	2	58	60	50	30	55	50	6	12	50	20	20	20	50	10	30	20	35	60
	3	4	63	50	40	50	40	50	20	20	53	30	4	15	55	25		22	37	63
	4	2	30	60	40	40	20	30	50	20	62	45	20	12	55	8	20	23	34	62
	5	4	45	50	55	45	10	10	50	4	50	45	20	10	45			23	34	55
	6	3	65	55	40	30	45	15	45	12	40	35	15	10	53	6		18	33	65
	7	1	64	60	35	30	45	30	10	15	58	25	12	8	50	12	4	20	31	64
	8	4	45	50	45	15	6	10	15	4	40	20	6	8	30	6		16	21	50
	9	4	64	60	35	35	30	20	50	6	61	40	12	8	55	4		20	34	64
	10	6-	4	12	6	8		8	10		10							7	8	12
	11	4	63	60	58	40	25	20	8	8	20	50	40	8		3		20	31	63
	12	3	50	50	45	25	58	50	10	40	58	20	8	15	12		15	19	33	58
1830	1	4+	45	10	30	50	25	20	12	10	12	12	45	10	15			45	23	50
	2	1	25	40	45	40	53	50	30	40	35	20	6		50	15	40	21	35	53
	3	3	64	40	4	45	35	62	30	30	50	45	8	8	61	10	6	23	33	64
	4	2	64	55	50	40	61	8	15	40	55	8	20	8	45	12	12	23	33	64
	5	2	65	40	40	30	40	20	8	15	63	35	10	12	35		35	19	32	65
	6	2	64	45	55	35	30	58	30	12	62	50	12	12	40	20	30	22	37	64
	7	4	63	50	30	35	10	40	35	10	20	50	30	8		4	10	20	28	63
	8	3	64	40	50	30	63	62	8	40	62	40	10	8	55	8	8	20	37	64
1831	1	1	40	50	55	30	50	58	8	8	61	30	8	12		12	8	20	31	61
	2	3	65	60	45	12	55	64	45	55	55	30	10	12		12	40	14	40	65
	3	1	65	45	55	12	55	60	12	30	40	30	6	15	55	4	20	29	34	65
	4	2	64	45	45	25	58	60	40	20	55	55	25	12	35	12	45	22	40	64
	5	1	58	50	30	35	55	45	35	30	62	45	40	15	63	12		27	41	63
	6	3	64	50	40	50	20	10	40	15	55	8	20	8	50	4		19	31	64
1832	1	2	64	60	30	35	40	60	8	8	15	15	3	8	50	10	20	19	28	64
	2	2	40	45	40	45	61	60	45	10	58	40	20	12	50	12	35	26	38	61
	3	4	64	40	50	55	55	45	20	20	10	40	45	20	50	4	8	32	35	64
	4	3	45	45	30	10	58	62	8	8	58	50	10	12	55	8	6	23	31	62
	5	2	64	60	55	15	55	50	53	12	55	40	8	12	40	7	10	18	36	64
	6	3	64	55	55	15	45	50	30	55	45	20	10	12		10		17	36	64
	7	3	61	45	50	45	15	61	40	45	62	50	15	12	35	10	20	20	38	62

CAPPED BUST DIME CENSUS

Year	JR #	Rarity	LM32	001	622	263	960	LM44	323	238	578	1050	263B	1057	LM13	835	869	RPD	AVG	MAX
1833	1	3	63	40	12	35	50	50	30	12	50	25	12	12	61	40	20	26	34	63
	2	5	63	60	50	45	40	12	8	20	10	10	18		55	3		17	30	63
	3	6	63	60	45	10	20	8	15	15	53							12	32	63
	4	1	65	58	15	12	35	10	50	12	63	20	10	10	35	12	20	34	28	65
	5	1	25	45	45	15	58	45	50	15	61	20	10	10	40	8	20	24	31	61
	6	1	55	40	55	20	30	20	10	10	63	12	12		55	12	8	19	29	63
	7	5	58	25	20	25	63	10	15	3	61	6	12		63			22	30	63
	8	5	64	60	50	45	30	12	12	45	58	40	30	12	35	6	15	26	34	64
	9	2	58	60	45	20	55	8	10	10	45	25	15	12	50	30	12	20	30	60
	10	3	63	60	40	30	55	30	10	15	55	40	12	12	40	10	40	22	34	63
1834	1	1	55	55	45	45	20	40	40	15	58	40	8	12		20	8	21	33	58
	2	3	65	50	50	35	62	63	40	6	63	20	30	12	45	8	20	28	38	65
	3	5	58	40	40	45	10	20	35	8	40	40	30		8	8		22	29	58
	4	3	62	45	20	58	53	20	30	12	40	50	15	15	25	8	20	23	32	62
	5	1	65	45	45	20	35	50	10	12	63	40	10	12	64	8	10	24	33	65
	6	2	65	60	63	35	55	20	45	12	62	30	8	10	55	12	45	36	38	65
	7	2	58	60	58	35	40	40	20	45	55	20	6	10	55	20	15	22	36	60
1835	1	1	65	55	50	10	50	40	30	12	35	40	8	12	50	8	20	24	32	65
	2	4	66	50	55	35	40	40	15	20	50	15	12	12	45	30	20	20	34	66
	3	2	65	45	62	35	40	30	8	8	55	20	6	10	55	4	15	23	31	65
	4	2	40	60	55	40	40	60	20	10	55	40	15	10	40	10	20	19	34	60
	5	1	25	50	12	25	40	15	20	10	45	30	15	10	55	12	40	19	27	55
	6	4	64	40	55	40	30	12	6	8	18	15	12	10	58	25	20	17	28	64
	7	5	60	55	45	45	58	35	10	20	45	12	35	10	55	8	30	23	35	60
	8	3	64	55	20	12	45	64	8	8	55	20	6	10	40	8	30	17	30	64
	9	2	65	45	50	12	35	62	45	8	62	40	8	10	45	12	40	22	36	65
1836	1	3	65	45	20	35	58	50	8	8	62	40	10	15	12	15	25	24	31	65
	2	2	66	45	45	45	53	60	58	15	58	30	3	8	30	10	40	23	38	66
	3	3	64	45	55	40	30	60	50	12	62	20	6	10	30	10	15	25	34	64
1837	1	4	10	30	62	55	35	20	3	12	45	30	45	12	40	4	10	19	28	62
	2	3	55	60	58	30	55	35	15	20	50	20	4	20	53	12	40	20	35	60
	3	2	66	45	40	30	40	35	8	20	40	40	6	12	45	12	30	26	31	66
	4	1	66	45	30	20	40	40	12	12	63	15	6	15		8	20	21	28	66
			LM32	001	622	263A	960	LM44	323	238	578	1050	263B	1057	LM13	835	869	122	KNOWN DIE MARRIAGES	
Varieties	Owned		122	122	122	122	121	121	121	120	119	118	118	101	99	98	86			
Average	Grade		51	46	40	33	37	36	22	16	46	31	15	12	43	12	18			

Capped Bust Dime Census by Grade

Charles D. Horning, DDS

CAPPED BUST DIME CENSUS BY GRADE										
Jun-06										
Year	JR #	Rarity	AG/G	VG	F	VF	XF	AU	UNC	TOTAL
1809	1	4	1	7	2	5	3	4	0	22
1811	1	3	2	1	5	8	6	2	0	24
1814	1	3	2	2	5	6	4	4	0	23
	2	3	1	2	5	3	7	2	0	20
	3	2	2	1	4	5	7	4	0	23
	4	2	2	1	3	10	6	2	0	24
	5	3	1	7	3	7	1	3	0	22
1820	1	4	3	2	3	13	2	3	0	26
	2	3	1	2	7	7	4	3	1	25
	3	4	1	3	3	5	4	3	0	19
	4	5	3	2	4	4	3	0	1	17
	5	4	2	5	6	6	3	1	0	23
	6	3	3	4	6	7	3	2	1	26
	7	2	1	6	2	9	5	4	0	27
	8	3	0	2	3	8	1	6	1	21
	9	4	0	3	6	7	2	2	0	20
	10	3	1	3	6	7	1	2	0	20
	11	3	1	2	4	11	3	3	1	25
	12	6	0	3	3	3	2	1	1	13
	13	3	1	3	3	4	3	2	1	17
1821	1	2	2	8	3	7	6	2	1	29
	2	6+	2	3	2	5	0	0	0	12
	3	4	0	4	6	7	1	1	1	20
	4	2	0	5	4	6	5	3	1	24
	5	3	1	3	3	12	2	3	2	26
	6	2	2	4	5	6	3	5	0	25
	7	2	0	3	8	6	6	1	1	25
	8	2	1	3	5	6	1	7	1	24
	9	2	4	5	7	9	0	1	0	26
	10	4+	1	2	3	5	1	2	1	15
1822	1	4	2	6	3	5	1	1	0	18
1823	1	3	0	5	9	3	1	6	1	25
	2	5-	0	12	5	4	3	4	1	29
	3	2	4	5	4	7	6	4	0	30
1824	1	3	12	15	9	6	2	4	0	48
	2	5	6	5	1	5	0	0	0	17

CAPPED BUST DIME CENSUS BY GRADE

Year	JR #	Rarity	AG/G	VG	F	VF	XF	AU	UNC	TOTAL
1825	1	4	0	5	2	6	1	6	1	21
	2	2	1	3	4	11	3	3	1	26
	3	4	2	2	6	7	2	2	0	21
	4	2	4	3	5	5	4	2	1	24
	5	5	6	8	0	6	2	2	1	25
1827	1	2	1	6	5	5	1	2	1	21
	2	5	7	5	3	4	0	0	0	19
	3	1	3	4	4	8	2	3	1	25
	4	2	1	2	7	6	3	2	0	21
	5	3	1	6	3	2	6	2	1	21
	6	2	1	2	3	5	5	3	1	20
	7	3	2	4	3	6	4	2	1	22
	8	4	2	4	4	7	3	2	1	23
	9	4+	1	8	4	8	2	4	0	27
	10	6+	0	3	0	1	1	0	0	5
	11	2	1	5	6	5	2	1	1	21
	12	1	0	5	6	4	2	2	1	20
	13	3	2	4	4	7	4	1	1	23
1828	1	2	4	8	3	9	7	2	1	34
	2	3	13	8	4	4	3	5	1	38
1829	1	4+	4	1	3	3	1	3	3	18
	2	2	2	4	2	5	0	6	1	20
	3	4	6	0	2	5	2	6	1	22
	4	2	1	3	2	8	5	2	2	23
	5	4	3	5	0	3	7	5	0	23
	6	3	1	2	4	3	4	3	1	18
	7	1	1	4	3	6	1	3	2	20
	8	4	2	5	2	2	4	1	0	16
	9	4	1	7	2	4	1	2	3	20
	10	6-	1	5	1	0	0	0	0	7
	11	4	1	8	1	3	3	2	2	20
	12	3	0	4	4	3	3	5	0	19
1830	1	4+	5	21	6	9	3	1	0	45
	2	1	2	3	1	5	6	4	0	21
	3	3	3	8	0	4	3	2	3	23
	4	2	2	6	4	2	3	4	2	23
	5	2	0	4	4	5	3	1	2	19
	6	2	0	1	7	6	2	4	2	22
	7	4	2	5	2	7	1	2	1	20
	8	3	0	5	2	3	3	3	4	20

CAPPED BUST DIME CENSUS BY GRADE

Year	JR #	Rarity	AG/G	VG	F	VF	XF	AU	UNC	TOTAL
1831	1	1	0	6	3	4	2	4	1	20
	2	3	0	1	3	1	3	3	3	14
	3	1	6	4	4	7	3	3	2	29
	4	2	1	2	4	4	5	3	3	22
	5	1	1	4	6	5	5	3	3	27
	6	3	1	5	2	2	4	4	1	19
1832	1	2	1	4	3	4	2	2	3	19
	2	2	2	4	5	3	7	3	2	26
	3	4	7	6	1	5	7	5	1	32
	4	3	1	8	3	3	2	5	1	23
	5	2	0	3	3	1	4	5	2	18
	6	3	1	2	3	2	4	4	1	17
	7	3	0	5	4	2	3	3	3	20
1833	1	3	1	1	5	8	3	6	2	26
	2	5	1	5	2	3	2	2	2	17
	3	6	0	2	3	1	2	2	2	12
	4	1	4	12	6	7	1	2	2	34
	5	1	1	4	6	4	5	3	1	24
	6	1	2	3	4	3	2	4	1	19
	7	5	4	8	2	4	0	1	3	22
	8	5	1	7	7	3	3	3	2	26
	9	2	1	4	3	5	3	3	1	20
	10	3	0	4	3	4	6	3	2	22
1834	1	1	3	3	2	3	7	3	0	21
	2	3	2	6	3	7	3	3	4	28
	3	5	4	7	1	4	5	1	0	22
	4	3	1	6	4	5	2	4	1	23
	5	1	0	5	3	4	6	3	3	24
	6	2	1	11	5	6	5	4	4	36
	7	2	0	7	2	5	3	4	1	22
1835	1	1	1	3	6	6	3	4	1	24
	2	4	0	1	6	5	4	3	1	20
	3	2	1	8	1	4	3	4	2	23
	4	2	0	3	1	6	5	2	2	19
	5	1	0	2	6	5	4	2	0	19
	6	4	1	4	4	3	2	2	1	17
	7	5	2	6	2	5	3	4	1	23
	8	3	0	6	2	3	2	2	2	17
	9	2	1	3	2	5	6	2	3	22
1836	1	3	2	4	6	6	2	2	2	24
	2	2	1	5	2	4	4	4	3	23
	3	3	1	5	3	6	3	4	3	25
1837	1	4	3	4	3	4	3	1	1	19
	2	3	3	1	2	5	2	6	1	20
	3	2	0	3	7	8	6	1	1	26
	4	1	0	2	5	7	4	1	2	21
			Total	Reported in all Grades		2,732				

Total Known Examples Of The Rarest Capped Bust Dimes

Charles D. Horning, DDS

Year	JR #	Rarity	Total Known
1820	12	6	21
1821	2	6+	16
1827	10	6+	13
1829	10	6-	23
1833	3	6	20

The criteria established for rarity within the above table are as follows:

R-7 less than 13 known

R-6+ 13-17 known

R-6 18-24 known

R-6- 25-30 known



1820 JR 12



1829 JR 10



1833 JR 3



The Obverse Hub Change In 1832

Alan S. DeShazo

Al C. Overton and Donald L. Parsley have performed incalculably valuable services for students of the Bust Half Dollar series, and Dr. Ivan Leaman and Donald Gunnet advanced important aspects of the formers' work with their own contribution on the emission sequence. Donald Parsley has been reluctant to agree to the validity of the Leaman/Gunnet findings. However, if we follow the Overton/Parsley arrangement of the issues of 1832, the hub changes occur as immediately below.

year	var.	hub				
1832	O101	7		O114	7	
	O102	7			O115	6
	O103	7			O116	7
	O104	7			O117	7
	O105*	7			O120	7
	O106	7			O121	7
	O107	6			O119*	7
	O108	6			O118	7
	O109	6			O122	6
	O110	6			O123**	7
	O111	6	1833	O101	7	
	O112**	7		O102	7	
	O113			O103	7	

If the coins are arranged by the Leaman/Gunnet sequence, the following result is obtained. Which looks more plausible?

year	var.	hub			
1832	O122	6		O115	6
	O110	6		O111	6
	O109	6		O103	7
	O107	6		O106	7
	O108	6		O104	7
	O119*	7		O102	7
	O105*	7		O101	7
	O117	7		O118	7
	O116	7	1833	O108	7
	O120	7	1832	O123**	7
	O121	7	1833	O113	7
	O113	7		O115	7
	O114	7	1832	O112**	7

I have placed stars, for emphasis, by two of the die-linked marriages from two different obverses, 119* with 105* and 123** with 112**. The fact that the pairs are widely separated in Overton/Parsley and not so in the Leaman/Gunnet sequence seems significant to me. The marriages O115 and 111 may need another look, although the questions I raised in my other article on the Leaman/Gunnet sequence makes this small deviation at least an explicable departure from a smooth and unbroken flow of die usage. The seemingly more chaotic changes in 1825 now call for a similar analysis there.



1832 0108
Hub 6



1832 0112
Hub 7



Reverse Die as Hammer Die: Evidence from a Mint Error

Henry Hilgard

At the January 2004 Florida United Numismatists show, Glenn Peterson gave an excellent presentation on the topic of double profiles on capped bust half dollars, specifically the double profiles of Miss Liberty on the obverse, and the double outlines of the eagle's right wing (to the viewer's left) on the reverse (1). Among the ideas he discussed was the possibility that the double outlines on the reverse occurred when the reverse die being used as the hammer (upper) die.

The suggestion that the reverse die might sometimes be the hammer die was contrary to the conventional wisdom that the obverse die was invariably the hammer die for capped bust halves (2). The 1826 O-101a shown here provides additional evidence that the reverse die was sometimes used as the hammer die in this series.

This coin is a "misaligned die" error, with its reverse struck approximately 2% off center, resulting in a crescent of unstruck metal on the reverse between 2 o'clock and 5 o'clock. It fits the usual definition of a misaligned die error, which is a coin struck in such a way that one side is perfectly centered and the other side is struck off center (3). This kind of error occurs because the hammer die is not directly centered above the anvil (lower) die at the time of striking. Of perhaps a dozen misaligned die bust halves that I have seen, this is the only one with the reverse being the off center side.

In the making of a misaligned die error, the anvil die is thought to be the one that strikes the coin on center. This is because the anvil die rests centered inside the collar, and the blank planchet rests centered inside the collar as well (2). That leaves the hammer die to produce the off center image. In the case of this 1826 O-101a the hammer die must have been the reverse die, producing the off center reverse image.

Were all of the 1826 O-101a's struck using the reverse as hammer die? Apparently not, because one of Russell Logan's O-101a's was struck slightly off center with an extra row of dentil tracks to the right of the date (4). The loose hammer die that created the extra dentil tracks in the case of the Logan coin was the obverse die. Apparently the die positions were switched during the production of this marriage!

If it is correct that a double profile is produced by a slight bounce of the hammer die after it has impacted the coin, then the 18 reverse double profiles reported in Peterson's survey for the years 1823 through 1826 also provide evidence that the reverse die was sometimes used as the hammer die, especially during those years. It should be noted, however, that 151 obverse double profiles were reported in the survey for those same years, indicating that even during these years it was relatively uncommon to use the reverse die as the hammer die. Examination of the dies that still remain from the early days of the mint seems to show that

obverse and reverse dies are identical in shape, and therefore could have been used in either hammer or anvil position (5).

In summary, for the 1826 O-101a marriage there is evidence (a) from this misaligned die coin that the reverse was the hammer die, and (b) from the Logan coin that the obverse was the hammer die. These findings can be accounted for if the hammer and anvil positions of the dies were switched during the course of striking this marriage.

References:

- (1) Glenn Peterson, Report of BHNC Open Meeting at FUN, BHNC Newsletter, February 2004, pp. 2-4.
- (2) Chris Pilliod, What Error Coins Can Teach Us about Die Settings, The Numismatist, Volume 109, Number 4, April 1996, pp. 401-408.
- (3) Arnold Margolis and Fred Weinberg, The Error Coin Encyclopedia, Third Edition, 2000, pp. 341-342.
- (4) Bowers and Merena Galleries, The Collections of Russell J. Logan & Gilbert G. Steinberg, November 6-9, 2002, lot # 2468, p. 304.
- (5) Craig Sholley, Early U.S. Minting Methods Part I: Die Forging and Hardening, John Reich Journal, Volume 15 / Issue 2, April 2003, p. 34.



Obverse of 1826 O-101a
Misaligned Die Error,
Struck On Center



Reverse of 1826 O-101a
Misaligned Die Error,
Struck Off Center



Old Dollar Whist

**Bill Luebke (with assistance from Fred Hagemeyer,
Jim Matthews, Warren Miller and W. David Perkins)**

A major numismatic event occurred on Saturday June 10, 2006. For the first time in history, the owners of three Early Dollar collections of over 100 varieties each met for a rousing game of Old Dollar Whist. The event was to honor Warren Miller for recently becoming the first ever to accumulate all 118 of the known varieties of early dollars. The primary players were Warren Miller (118 varieties), Fred Hagemeyer (101 varieties) and myself (109 varieties). Also participating were Early Dollar experts W. David Perkins and Jim Matthews, each with fewer than 100 varieties, but some amazing coins nonetheless.

If you are unfamiliar with Old Dollar Whist, it is a variation of Old Cent Whist as described by Dr. William H. Sheldon in **Penny Whimsy** on pages 336-337, where each player plays his best specimen of each die variety. A player receives one point for owning the variety and an additional point if his is determined the best in play. We start with 1794 B-1 and run through the series to 1803 B-6.

Fred and I know we are in big trouble long before the match. We're both budget collectors with shallow pockets and Warren's been building his collection for over 25 years and has a great eye for quality to boot. I figure Fred and I will do well if our combined scores can give Warren a run for his money.

Neither Dave nor Jim brought all of their coins, plus Dave specializes in 1798 rather than the whole series and Jim sold much of his collection in 2002. But many of the coins they play should win the bonus point for best of the variety. Plus their deep knowledge of rarity, pedigrees, condition census, attribution, etc. will add greatly to the festivities.

The match starts with 1794 B-1, BB-1. Warren's lovely Childs specimen beats out my Reiver specimen (well, actually just a photo of my Reiver specimen. I haven't received my newest darling yet, but the guys are kind enough to give me a point anyway). Warren then runs off six wins in a row until I finally break my maiden with 1795 B-7, BB-18. But Fred is really the big winner on B-7 when Jim points out it has a silver plug!

Jim scores with his amazing PCGS EF 40 1795 B-8, BB-15, ex. F.C.C. Boyd, Bolender, Austin, Ostheimer and Willasch. This was by far the best of the three coins in play for this extremely rare variety with perhaps five or six known. Jim scores again with B-10, BB-22 and B-11, BB-12. Amazingly, three really nice examples of each of these R-7 varieties are in play. Dave adds a comment that these three specimens are all ex. Bolender, Austin, Ostheimer and it is great to see all three together again.

Warren runs the table on the rest of the 1795's with his amazing triple struck B-16, BB-23 beating out my coin, ex. Reiver. Two of the three known hit the table. Warren then plays solitaire, outscoring the rest of us 2-0 on each of the B-18 through B-22 varieties, all unique or R-8. Wow!



Obverse photo of the finest known by far 1795 B-8, BB-15 Dollar. This great coin is ex. Boyd-Friedman-Bolender-Austin-Ostheimer-Willash and is affectionately known as "The Coin!" by its current owner. Everyone in attendance enjoyed a chance to view and study this extremely rare specimen.

The 1796's bring out Warren's incredible NGC AU 53, B-3, BB-62, ex Spies. Only two specimens confirmed. Gee, where's the other one? "Bring your checkbook, Bill?" asks Dave. "Sure did," say I. "Didn't bring it," says Warren. Drat! Shortly thereafter Warren whips out the Whitney 1796 B-6, BB-25, the only undamaged specimen of the three known. Only Fred can bring a halt to Warren's run on 1796 and 1797 with his 1796 B-4, BB-61, breaking his maiden in the process.



This beautiful 1797 B-1, BB-73 Dollar placed second to the exceptional Miller specimen that was graded NGC MS-63. All day long there were many very nice coins played that were topped by an even nicer example.

Reverse photo illustrating the Small Eagle Reverse of the runner-up specimen to the Miller 1797 B-1 Dollar.



Now come the 1798's. I can detect a gleam in Dave's eye. It's his specialty year. Sure enough he gets a win with his first 1798 Dollar, a lovely B-4, BB-92. I try to take credit for it as I found it for Dave. The guys aren't buying it so I get only one point for my inferior coin. Big battle over the very rare and famous 1798 B-5, BB-93, the one with the cool and huge vertical bisecting crack on the reverse. Four coins in play with Warren's NGC AU 53 nudging Dave's, also NGC AU 53. The very rare B-16, BB-110 variety is the first to see all five participants in play and a plethora of die states (Dave's is the latest state, with a cud starting to form under star 1). Warren's NGC AU 55, ex Bolender nips Jim's, also NGC AU 55. The rare and underrated (in my humble opinion) B-17, BB-101 again sees all five of us in play, with an astonishing six coins in total and nearly all in the Condition Census. Jim has a prime die state (only two known). I think my NGC AU 50 may be competitive but Dave's NGC AU 55 (finest known) wins with Warren's NGC AU 53 close behind. Geez, I have an AU and finish only third? This is crazy!

Dave continues to rack up points with wonderful 1798's, winning 13 times in total, and slowing Warren's fearsome assault in the process. Dave's raw VF B-18, BB-17 (only 5 examples known) beats Warren's. I've seen only one (and got badly outbid on it) and here are two on the table. I score again when my PCGS EF 45 B-27 BB-113 barely beats Warren's NGC 55. This is interesting commentary to slab grading and points out the value of sympathy votes. Whimpering helps, I learn.

This "raw" 1798 B-15, BB-112 Dollar which the owner graded AU-50 unanimously won first place for the die marriage over a specimen graded NGC MS61! It has exceptional color, surfaces and eye appeal and is virtually perfect for the grade.



Then a big moment: 1798 B-33, BB-117. Three known. I've never seen one though I've looked high and low. Wham! All three hit the table, and, perhaps more amazing, all three are NICE. That just doesn't happen with super rare marriages. Jim's PCGS AU 53 tops Warren's NGC AU 50 with Dave's lovely raw EF third. I am drooling. "Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's coins," I tell myself, rather unconvincingly.



This stunning 1798 B-19, BB-106 Dollar is believed to be one of the two finest known specimens for the die marriage. In second place was an example graded conservatively as NGC AU50.

Warren continues his rout with the 1799's, with Dave taking B-1, BB-142 (the ex. Austin, Osthimer coin) and Fred scoring with B-11, BB-111. Otherwise, Warren sweeps with an amazing array of high-grade specimens. The one curious anomaly is B-17, BB-101, which Warren wins with a lowly NGC VF 35. Huh? B-17 is really common, yet we all have dogs? Looks like B-17 is a sleeper, at least in better grades. We all agree 1799 is a good year to collect with many interesting varieties (overdates, 8x5 stars, irregular dates, no berries, reverse of 1798, huge die cracks, etc.) with no great rarities to slow completion. Yet this year is so often overlooked.

Dave immediately prevents a Warren sweep of 1800 with his lovely PCGS AU 55 B-1, BB-181. Fred adds a notch to his belt when his ICG AU 50 B-12, BB-184 is determined to be better than Warren's NGC AU 55. More commentary on slab grading? Dave also takes B-13, BB-193 when his raw coin tops Warren's NGC AU 55. Both were struck from the latest die state with extensive clashing and the obverse die breaks. Warren takes the rest of the 1800's with his NGC AU 55 B-20, BB-185 being the star of that year. It's R-6+, recently lowered from R-7, and a strong candidate for the finest known (along with the Bolender specimen).

Warren easily takes nearly all of the 1801, 1802 and 1803 varieties with another run of high-grade beauties. I do win 1801 B-3, BB-213 with an undergraded PCGS/NGC EF 45 that the totally unreasonable slabcos won't give an AU number and the very rare 1802 B-9, BB-235 with my ex Cardinal, Rutherford NGC EF 45 in very tight votes against Warren's coins. More sympathy I'm sure. Jim wins the very rare 1803 B-3, BB-256 with a great PCGS AU 50. We arrive at the end: 1803 B-6, BB-255. After much whimpering (on my part, certainly not Warren's) my PCGS AU 50 edges Warren's NGC AU 50. A closing victory is mine! Time to do my happy dance.

The match takes about eight hours to play including a break for lunch and much discussion of grades, pedigrees, die states, condition census, etc. Plus plenty of good-natured ribbing and kibitzing. A great time was had by all, though it is really humbling to put out what I think is a really nice coin only to see three better ones hit the table.

It is thrilling to see so many great coins, including unique varieties and R-7 and R-8 coins aplenty. Many Finest Knowns. Pedigrees up the wazoo. Wow!

The final scores: Warren 206; Bill 114; Fred 104; Dave 50; Jim 16. Note that Fred and I combined DID beat Warren, but only because Dave and Jim stole a number of bonus points from Warren.



Screw Press

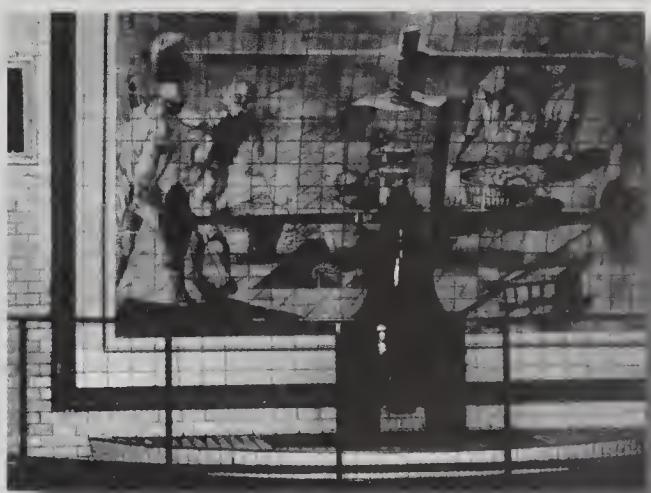
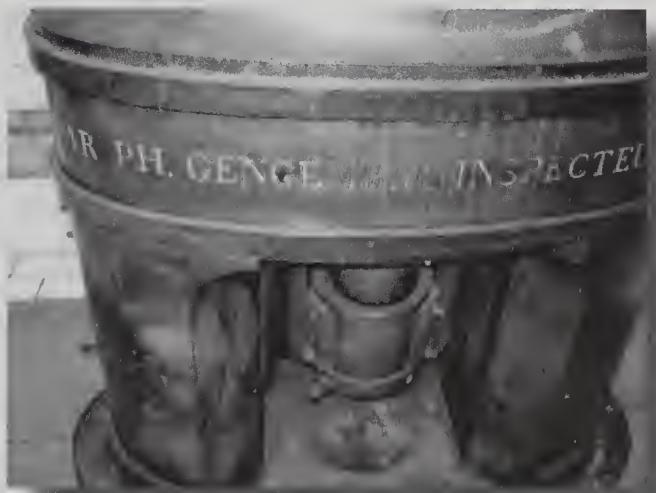
Richard Kurtz

My mother-in-law gave me a copy of “Bust Half Fever, Second Edition” this past Christmas. Finding this revised edition a significant improvement over the original version, Edgar Souders and I passed several e-mail messages back and forth about various portions of the book. I promised Edgar that I’d send him a photo of a real screw press when I found out what I did with the negatives, but they haven’t shown up yet.

Since my wife has a small apartment in Paris, I asked her to take some digital photos on her last trip there. These are easier to send and should be better to work with, as well.

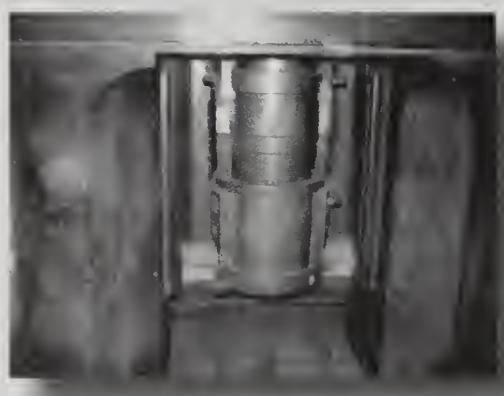
One of my favorite stops in the Paris Metro system is Pont Neuf/La Monnaie. Pont Neuf means “New Bridge,” but that’s a relative term in a city with a 2000+ year history, as this span was built over the Seine in the 17th century.

There for all to see in the Metro station is a screw press built in 1803, together with contemporary illustrations of how it was used. I believe that the arms of the press were roughly chest high to minimize the considerable effort required to move the heavy weight for even a short distance. I agree with Edgar Souder’s belief that the arms had to move only three or four feet to bring the hammer and anvil dies together. Note that the weights at each end of this particular press are not like the round “cannonballs” usually depicted, but look more like a cross between a round ball and the weight on a barbell.





Coming up on the street, one finds La Monnaie de Paris, a numismatic museum located in the old mint building. While a working knowledge of French is helpful, the coin displays covering many centuries of coinage are still interesting to those who speak only English. Of equal interest within the museum are several screw presses, some of them quite small. I haven't visited Paris since September 2001, and last was in La Monnaie three or four years before that. My next visit to France will include another stop in La Monnaie, with the hope of photographing some of the screw presses in the museum.



A Call for Bust Quarter Pictures

Rory Rea

Brad Karoleff asked me to give a brief update with our progress concerning the revised Browning quarter book. While Dr. Glenn Peterson, Brad Karoleff and John Kovach have been busy with most all of the text portions, I have been concentrating my efforts on updating the photographs for the book. This in itself is quite a challenge since locating nice choice high grade varieties that will photograph well in black and white is difficult for various reasons.

One main reason is some examples have nice deep colorful toning, and as you may know, these particular coins will not show much contrast between the fields and the devices unless you are a professional photographer, which I am not. Obtaining the perfect shot can be difficult at best. Another reason is that many coins are residing in slabs. These inert plastic holders are perfect for protecting and storing your valuable pieces but, unfortunately, they do nothing except prevent good quality photographs due to glare reflecting off the plastic. Because of this, I have gone so far as to contact some of the grading services asking for help with certain coins. For instance; NGC has been kind enough to allow a 1796 B2b quarter in VF30 to be removed and re-holdered free of charge for the purpose of obtaining a close-up of this late die state, (and to further our research of dentil and reeding study). This was detailed in my last article in the December JR Journal Volume 17, Issue 1.

Recently through the assistance of Brad Karoleff, I have been in contact with Ron Guth from PCGS. Ron has been made aware of our problem and has offered his assistance in allowing me to bring in some coins to their office for photographing. They have agreed to break them out and then re-slab them for our book project. I know this is not the norm and because of this we are truly grateful for their gracious assistance. On the same note many of you have also been so kind to participate in this project and I would like to thank you for all your efforts.

We are getting closer, but again it is difficult to obtain the right example to photograph. My database, which includes over a thousand auction appearances of bust quarters, shows examples that have not seen the light of day since they were auctioned years ago. Many of these pieces may be out there tucked away in type sets unknown to the die marriage collector. Nice choice high grade bust quarters as a whole are very rare. This is one reason I am writing one last time hoping to photograph some of those pieces for inclusion in our project.

Below in list one is photos we would like to improve. List number two is for inclusion into yet another quarter book project detailing rare die marriages also with rare high grade common marriages. Please keep in mind these examples in list two are for any grade, any condition, and no matter what they look like.

List number one:

1796 B1	1805 B4	1806 B4	1806 B10	1815 B1	1818 B6
1818 B8	1819 B2	1820 B4	1822 B2	1825 B3	1828 B3
1831 B6	1834 B1	1834 B2	1835 B1	1835 B5	1835 B6
1836 B1	1836 B4	1837 B1			

List number 2:

1796 B1 grading XF or better
1805 B1 grading XF or better
1805 B4 grading AU or better
1805 B5 all specimens
1806 B4 grading AU or better
1806 B10 grading XF or better
1822 B2 (over fractions) all specimens
1823 B1 all specimens
1824 B1 grading XF or better
1825 B1 grading XF or better
1828 B3 all specimens
1831 B7 all specimens
1836 B5 all specimens
1837 B6 all specimens

Currently we have about 95% of all the photos needed for the Browning update, the authors feel there is room for some improvement. If you have any of these die marriages please contact me at Roryrea@sbcglobal.net and let's go over your example(s) to see if they meet our objectives. Usually what we are looking for are examples that are high grade, AU or better that are mostly white or lightly toned (or toned coins with highlighted devices) with nice contrasting fields. I know, many of you are thinking what, on a bust quarter? Are you crazy? It's hard enough to locate decent coins let alone choice examples! For the most part yes, it is difficult but not impossible. So in closing, if you have access to a high grade example please let us know and you may have a chance to exhibit your coin as a plate in the Browning update.

I will be at the ANA in Colorado, and most all of the Long Beach shows in California with my camera. Please let me know if you can help with the project.

Since writing the original article I had the opportunity to visit with Ron Guth at PCGS. He welcomed me warmly upon my arrival at their offices and gave me a mini-tour of the facility including the grading room and photography room. I also met with Philip Arnold, their photographer, who was also very friendly and helpful.

Ron spent significant time with me discussing both quarter book projects currently in the works. It was a fabulous trip that I will never forget. And the photos are pretty neat also!



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